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GERMANY (Soviet Zone)

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(b) (1) EP-195-48  
(b) (3) Police Developments in Soviet Zone.

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Mr. Walter Kuraner

August 1948

7 September 1948  
German Nationals

The radical trend in the Soviet zone police has been especially noticeable since the appointment of Dr. Kurt FISCHER as president of German Administration of the Interior, and is progressing. All five Laender and Soviet Sector of BERLIN are affected. Large scale recruitment is taking place, not only to replace the dismissals, but also to increase the strength of all police which has been authorized by SMA. In SAXONY-ANHALT the 1948-49 budget provides for an increase from 17,000 to 25,000. Border police are being strengthened as are the para-military police. The current purge is aimed at former members of the SED, the two bourgeois parties, (CDU and LDP) and the professional civil servants in the police regardless of party affiliation. Many top officials in the GAI and the Laender police have recently been dismissed. Future role of the police was described by Walter UEBERMUTH in a speech before leading officials of the GAI. He stated that the police should be the militant arm of revolutionary communism, and that the police cannot tolerate men in their ranks who are unwilling to participate in the fight for revolutionary ideals. He stated further that the police would receive new weapons and military training. The capture of BERLIN, he stated, would be the trial by fire.

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MEMO FOR RECORD:

Subject: "Police Developments in Russian Zone."

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SUBJECT: Police Developments in Soviet Zone.

1. The radical trend in the police apparatus of the Soviet Zone, which has become especially apparent since the establishment of the German Administration of the Interior, is continuing. The past several weeks have witnessed a thorough purge of the police in all five states of the Soviet Zone, in the Soviet Sector of BERLIN, and in the German Administration of the Interior. It is estimated that approximately 30 per cent of the police force in the Lander, approximately 10 per cent in the Soviet Sector of BERLIN and about five per cent in the German Administration of the Interior were dismissed within the past sixty days. Simultaneously a large-scale recruitment for the police is under way in the Soviet Zone. Recruits are needed not only to replace dismissed recent dismissals, but also to bring the police force up to the new strength figures not yet available for all the states; in SAXONY-ANHALT the total number of police for the fiscal year 1948 - 1949 has been increased from approximately 19,000 to nearly 25,000. Similar increases of police strength were reported from SAXONY. Additional personnel are also needed to fill up the ranks of the Border Police and the newly authorized para-military police. Estimates on the strength of the latter are not yet available.

2. The current purge of the police is aimed at former members of the SPD, members of the bourgeois parties in the Soviet Zone (CDU and LDP) and professional civil servants in the police, regardless of party affiliations. SED membership is not considered a guarantee of loyalty to Communist ideals. Among leading officials dismissed recently were the chief of the Administrative Police in the German Administration of the Interior, DR. ZELTZ; the chief of the Water and Railway Police in SAXONY-ANHALT, ANNEBERG; the vice-president of the Magdeburg police; the commander of the Schutspolizei in THURINGIA, ZAUSCH; and a great many individuals formerly on the staff of the above. The manner in which police personnel of lesser importance were tested on their political reliability can be illustrated by the events which took place in Kreis OBERHARZ (BRANDENBURG). All members of the police had to report to special examining committees where they were questioned, among other things, whether or not they considered the Liberal Democratic Party (which is licensed by the SVA in the Soviet Zone) a democratic organization. Those answering the question with "yes" were immediately given notice of dismissal. They were not to report again for duty; their salaries were to be paid until 30 September 1948.

3. The future role of the police in the Soviet Zone was described in a speech by Walter UEBRIGE before selected leading officials of the German Administration of the Interior and the Lander of the Soviet Zone on 13 August 1948.

from the ground up. The police should be considered the militant arm of revolutionary Communism. The police, just like the SED, can no longer tolerate within their ranks individuals who are unwilling to participate unconditionally in the revolutionary fight for Communist ideals. UEBRIGE further stated that the police will receive new weapons and military training. The time will come when the police will have to prove themselves. For the police of the eastern zone the capture of BERLIN will be considered the trial by fire. One should look forward to the day when all GERMANY will have a Communist government.

4. Apparently influenced by UEBRIGE's speech, there was a meeting of Brandenburg police officials in BAD FREIENWALDE, Kreis OBERHARZ, on 13 August 1948. Among items discussed were the complete sealing off from BERLIN of the areas concerned (Kreis OBERHARZ) — especially with regard to illegal transport of food from BRANDENBURG to the western sectors of BERLIN. The quartering of police in barracks was also discussed, in terms of barracks and other accommodations available. The police chief of the Kreis spoke of the necessity for making the police into a dependable force for implementing socialism in the Soviet Zone, and hinted at even more important tasks to follow.

ID. CO. 407: The intention to organize border police into semi-military units and to quarter them in barracks and improve their armament has previously been reported.

The passive aid given mobs of Berlin Communists in attempting to seize possession of the City Hall is an example of the immediate possibilities of police aid to the Communist cause. However, the above report has deeper implications: the complete control

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## Developments in Soviet Zone. (Cont'd)

~~SUBJECT:~~  
police is but the first step in a long-range plan to move the Luebeck-Trieste  
area to the western border of GERMANY. This result can come about in the following man-  
ner:

The Soviet Zone will become a Communist state by the direct interference of  
the police in the government. Eventually all occupation troops will be removed from  
German soil. Under the slogan "unified GERMANY", attempts will be made to bring the  
West into a new German state with BERLIN as the capital. If the West accedes to a legiti-  
mate move to bring this about, the Eastern (Communist) State will keep control of the  
police and establish a unified GERMANY as a Communist State. Should the Western State  
resist such a move, the Communist-dominated State will use pseudo-legal methods, sup-  
ported by an invading force of 100,000 well-armed police from the Eastern Zone. Against  
this force, the West could offer only a force possessing inferior arms and unorganized  
in a military sense.

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